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Sen. Gilbert fixes ‘Bad Driver Law,’ provides reimbursement to motorists already fined

Lansing – Legislation waiving a \$300 fee for motorists who fail to show proof of insurance when pulled over has been sent to the House for concurrence, Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, announced today.

“I’m happy to announce that we have amended the Driver Responsibility Act to eliminate the excessive penalties drivers were facing,” Gilbert said. “As I’ve stated all along, the intent of the original legislation was to go after drivers who refused to buy insurance, not drivers who forgot to carry a piece of paper.”

Gilbert also is encouraged to hear the governor supports his legislation.

“Although she has repeatedly stated that to her this is a revenue issue, it is simply a matter of fairness – we are only trying to do what’s right for Michigan’s motorists,” he said.

As amended, the bill:

- Allows a driver to appear prior to the appearance date on the citation and show proof that they had auto insurance at the time of the violation. If they do this, no Driver Responsibility fees may be levied.
- Provides for reimbursement of drivers already assessed. The legislation provides drivers with 60 days to appear in court and appeal the court’s ruling that resulted in the assessment being charged in the first place. If drivers prove they had insurance, the fees will be refunded by the Secretary of State.

Gilbert noted that the legislation does not remove the civil infraction for failure to show proof of insurance. This civil infraction has been on the books for years, long before the Driver Responsibility Act. Courts may still assess a \$25 fee for tickets issued, even if a driver appears in court with proof of insurance.

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